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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 NASSAU 001635

SIPDIS

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TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EINV](#) [PINR](#) [PGOV](#) [CH](#) [JA](#) [BF](#)

SUBJECT: BAHAMIAN OFFICIALS VISIT TO CHINA -- COURTESY OR CONFIDANTS?

Classified By: CHARGE ROBERT WITAJEWSKI FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D).

SUMMARY 1. (C) On August 20, the Charge, and Economic Officer met with Mrs. Patricia Rogers, the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Foreign OFFICIAL VISIT TO CHINA BY GCOB OFFICIALS

[12](#). (C) At a meeting with Mrs. Patricia Rogers, the Charge, inquired about the upcoming Bahamian high-level visit to China from August 22nd - 5

[13](#). (C) Framing it as simply a "follow-up to an invitation", Mrs. Rogers attempted to minimize the significance of the official trip. But after

[14](#). (C) Mrs. Rogers and Ambassador Leonard Archer both made a point of expressing gratitude towards the Chinese for their technical assistance "NO" AGENDA WHILE IN CHINA

[15](#). (C) When asked by the Charge, as to what the Bahamian officials had arranged with their Chinese counterparts for the visit, Mrs. Rogers pau SMUGGLING CHINESE TO THE US VIA THE BAHAMAS

[16](#). (C) The Charge, specifically questioned the Bahamian government officials about whether the issue of smuggling Chinese aliens into the Unit CLOSING HONG KONG; OPENING IN BEIJING

[17](#). (C) During the conversation, Mrs. Rogers did reveal that The Bahamas would discuss with Chinese officials the possibility of "deactivating"

[18](#). (U) Currently, the Bahamian Consulate in Hong Kong does not process visas for CARICOM members, only for Bahamian citizens. Only the embassi NEW CHINESE AMBASSADOR TO BAHAMAS

[19](#). (C) Dr. Rogers mentioned that the new Chinese Ambassador to The Bahamas, Dongcon Jiao, will be formally presenting his credentials on August COMMENT

[110](#). (C) Mrs. Rogers, and other Bahamian officials, are reluctant to discuss the details of their relationship with the Chinese. While it appea WITAJEWSKI